

ABSTRACT

There is disclosed a method of enabling a computer network user to print a task on a printer **5** connected to the network via an associated printer server **2**. In the method a database **9** of print credit tokens is maintained on the printer server or another server connected to the network. The printer server queries the credit token database and determines, in advance of printing the task, whether the credit token database holds sufficient tokens to enable the task to be printed and, if it does, it sends the task to the printer and decrements the print credit token number held in the credit token database **9**. On a remote server, a database **8** of printer servers and associated printers is maintained and the credit token database connects to the printer server database automatically or at the instigation of a user on the network to verify the identity of the printer server **2**. The identity is verified at the printer server database **8** and print credit tokens are downloaded to the credit token database **9** to update the database of print credit tokens after verification of the identity of the printer server **2**.